

Environmental Restoration Project



ER Site No. 107: Explosives Test Area (SouthEast TA-III)

ADS: 1306

Operable Unit: Tech Area III & V

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Primary Contact: [Dick Fate](#)

Office Phone: 284-2568

Site History

Site 107 is a triangular-shaped area located to the west of the [Chemical Waste Landfill \(CWL\)](#) near Building 6920 along the southern boundary of TA-III. The site was used for shock-wave high explosives (HE) testing from the 1950s until 1972. Metal-clad explosives containing silver (Ag) or lead (Pb) might have been used during the tests.

Building 6920, the Radioactive and Mixed Waste Management Facility (RMWMF), was built on a portion of this site in 1989. In 1997, construction of the EPA-permitted Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) began on another portion of this site. The CAMU will receive, store, and treat soils and debris contaminated with hazardous waste from the CWL.

Constituents of Concern

HE

Metals (Pb, Ag)

Radioactive materials

Nitrates/nitrites

Current Hazards

There are no current hazards at this site except for the potential hazards associated with the activities at the [Chemical Waste Landfill \(CWL\)](#), CAMU, and Radioactive Waste Management Facility (RMWMF).

Current Status of Work

In 1992, ten composite soil samples were collected and analyzed for HE, metals, nitrates/nitrites and radionuclides. No HE compounds were detected and low levels of nitrate/nitrite were detected. Some metals were detected, but none exceeded the approved background levels. Data analysis, interpretation, and a no further action recommendation for this site were presented in the TA-III&V Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) report. This report was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in June 1996.

Two sets of notice of deficiency (NOD) comments were received and responses submitted. NMED requested that the site be resampled using discrete soil samples for site characterization. An agreement was reached on the resampling to be done including the number of samples, the locations, and the analyses to be performed.

In March 1999, nine discrete soil samples were collected and analyzed for HEs, metals, nitrate/nitrite, and radionuclides via gamma spectroscopy. No HEs were detected and low concentrations of metals and nitrate/nitrite were found. There were no activity levels of radionuclides above the approved background. However, the minimum detectable activity for Uranium-235 was greater than the background level in all but 2 samples. The risk assessment performed on these detected constituents indicated that the concentrations posed insignificant risk to human health and the environment.

A supplemental NOD response report was prepared to document the 1999 sampling and results. The report also included a proposal for No Further Action (NFA) at the site. The report was submitted to NMED in July 2001.

NMED found Site 107 acceptable for NFA petition on September 28, 2001.

Future Work Planned

No further work is planned.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

No waste was generated.

Information for ER Site 107 was last updated Jan 21, 2003.